

Banks Committee Members,

My name is David Samuels. I'm the founder of the Community Party, a statewide network of activists. I approached Assemblyman Matt Ritter about supporting a publicly owned state infrastructure bank. Rep. Ritter agreed that this concept, which is a success in California and has been introduced on the federal level by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro in 2011 and the Congressional Progressive Caucus this year, is an effective vehicle for promoting economic growth and job creation. The cornerstone of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation was the creation of infrastructure projects which employed thousands of people and helped to pull this country out of the Great Depression. It's time to think outside of the box and implement economic policies which will benefit the working class, the poor and other vulnerable populations. Including a stipulation requiring that a certain number of individuals from poor urban/rural communities be trained and hired to work on infrastructure projects which are funded by the bank would be an important step toward addressing the poverty issue in this state which has been ignored for too long. The crumbling, obsolete infrastructure must be repaired and enhanced to meet the needs of community residents in the 21st century. Connecticut has the opportunity to be one of the innovators in national economic policy. Our group urges you to vote in favor of creating a state infrastructure bank. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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